

PRESS RELEASE

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Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute (formerly Sea to Shore Alliance) partners with FPL to expand marine debris education program

Clearwater, Fla. – March 20, 2019 – Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute (formerly Sea to Shore Alliance) has launched a new offensive in its attack on the scourge of marine debris. The marine conservation organization’s mobile classroom deployment is being expanded to help educate the public about efforts they can take to reduce marine waste.

This expansion coincides with Sea to Shore Alliance’s new merger into Clearwater Aquarium’s newly created Research Institute. Forthwith, Sea to Shore Alliance will be known as Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute, conducting this marine debris initiative through a \$20,000 donation from Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) given through its charitable arm, the NextEra Energy Foundation.

“We all want future generations to be able to enjoy the benefits of inheriting a cleaner, more sustainable environment,” said Michael Sole, FPL vice president of environmental services. “The Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute brings the strength of a proven grassroots education program that stresses the importance of being environmentally responsible and taking steps to dispose of trash properly. We welcome this opportunity to extend an educational partnership that has included working with the former Sea to Shore Alliance on our manatee programs at our clean energy centers.”

The FPL donation will be used to enhance Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute’s environmental education program targeting marine debris including upgrading the mobile classroom, securing supplies, organizing beach clean ups and more. Marine debris is an increasing problem and threat to a wide range of aquatic species. Much of the debris is comprised of single-use plastics. Once this type of litter enters a waterway, it can take hundreds of years for these plastic, metal and glass materials to degrade.

In 2015, the former Sea to Shore Alliance introduced the *H2O: Healthy Habitats and Oceans* program to educate the public about ways to reduce marine debris and promote marine stewardship. It uses a mobile classroom as a unique and cost-effective way to convey its message to reduce wildlife impacts.

“FPL’s donation enables us to expand our partnership to empower youth and adults alike to reduce marine debris in areas where they live and play. The program provides a unique platform for engaging with individuals about environmental issues. Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute welcomes the opportunity to partner with FPL to ensure cleaner waterways and more engaged communities,” said Dr. James Powell, executive director of the Institute.

About Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute

Clearwater Marine Aquarium, a Florida-based, 501 (C)(3) non-profit, believes in preserving the environment while inspiring the human spirit through leadership in the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of marine life; environmental education; research; and conservation. Researchers within the Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute focus on the conservation of flagship species, such as manatees, sea turtles, and right whales, to ensure greater protection for these species and for the sensitive coastal ecosystems these animals call home. For more information, visit: <http://cmaresearchinstitute.org/>.

About Florida Power & Light Company

Florida Power & Light Company is the largest energy company in the United States as measured by retail electricity produced and sold, serving more than five million customer accounts or an estimated 10 million+ people across the state of Florida. FPL's typical 1,000-kWh residential customer bill is approximately 30 percent lower than the latest national average and among the lowest in the U.S. FPL's service reliability is better than 99.98 percent, and its highly fuel-efficient power plant fleet is one of the cleanest among all electric companies nationwide. The company was recognized in 2018 as one of the most trusted U.S. electric utilities by Market Strategies International for the fifth consecutive year. A leading Florida employer with approximately 8,700 employees, FPL is a subsidiary of Juno Beach, Florida-based NextEra Energy, Inc. (NYSE: NEE), a clean energy company widely recognized for its efforts in sustainability, ethics and diversity, and has been ranked No. 1 in the electric and gas utilities industry in Fortune's 2019 list of "World's Most Admired Companies." NextEra Energy is also the parent company of Gulf Power Company, which serves more than 460,000 customers in eight counties throughout Northwest Florida, and NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, which, together with its affiliated entities, is the world's largest generator of renewable energy from the wind and sun and a world leader in battery storage. For more information about NextEra Energy companies, visit these websites: www.NextEraEnergy.com, www.FPL.com, www.GulfPower.com, www.NextEraEnergyResources.com.